

**PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN**(11)Publication number : **2001-328970**(43)Date of publication of application : **27.11.2001**

(51)Int.Cl.

C07C227/42  
C07C229/08  
C07C229/36  
C07C231/16  
C07C231/24  
C07C237/06  
C07C237/20  
C12P 13/02  
C12P 13/04  
C12P 41/00  
// C07B 57/00  
C07B 61/00  
(C12P 13/02  
C12R 1:01 )  
(C12P 13/04  
C12R 1:01 )  
(C12P 41/00  
C12R 1:01 )  
C07M 7:00

(21)Application number : **2000-146663**(71)Applicant : **MITSUBISHI RAYON CO LTD**(22)Date of filing : **18.05.2000**(72)Inventor : **KATO OSAMU**

**URAGAKI TOSHITAKA**  
**NAKAMURA TETSUJI**

**(54) METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE ALPHA-AMINO ACID AND OPTICALLY ACTIVE ALPHA-AMINO ACID AMIDE**

(57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a method for efficiently producing an optically active alpha-amino acid and an optically active alpha-amino acid amide.

**SOLUTION:** This method for producing the optically active alpha-amino acid and the optically active alpha-amino acid amide, comprising bringing the optically impure  $\alpha$ -amino acid amide into contact with microbial cells having an asymmetric hydrolysis ability or their treated products in an aqueous solvent, replacing the water used as the solvent by at least one solvent selected from  $\geq 3$ C linear, branched or cyclic alcohols and further preferentially depositing the optically active alpha-amino acid from the obtained alcohol solution. The optically active alpha-amino acid amide-containing alcohol solution obtained after the

separation of the optically active alpha-amino acid is recycled to the racemization reaction process.

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## LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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